Asia-Pacific Stats Café:
Is COVID-19 introducing mode effects into your official statistics?

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MALAYSIA’S LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION:
ACCELERATING IMPROVEMENT AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Malaysia is still on a full-fledged fight against COVID-19 after one year...

On the 25th Jan 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was detected in Malaysia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement Control Order (MCO 1.0)</th>
<th>Conditional (CMCO)</th>
<th>Recovery (RMCO)</th>
<th>Movement Control Order (MCO 2.0)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1 18-31 Mar</td>
<td>Phase 5 4 May-9 Jun</td>
<td>Phase 6 10 Jun-31 Aug</td>
<td>Phase 8 13-26 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 2 1-14 Apr</td>
<td></td>
<td>Government has implemented RMCO on 7 June 2020 where interest travel and commercial activities were allowed on 10 June 2020 except for the remaining areas in the Enhanced MCO (EMCO).</td>
<td>RMCO was continued until 31 December 2020 as announced on 28 August 2020 by the government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 3 15-28 Apr</td>
<td>Government announced CMCO where all economic sector and business activity operation were allowed on 4 May 2020</td>
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<td>Phase 4 29 Apr-3 May</td>
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<td>Government has decided to announced MCO 2.0 on 13 January until 26 Jan 2021 and on 21 January the MCO 2.0 was extended until 4 February 2021</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Impact of COVID-19 and containment measure

- Business premises were closed except for business selling everyday necessities
- Employed person decreased
- Unemployment spiked

20 Sep 2020, 3rd wave of COVID-19

2020

2021

After one year...

COVID-19 cases as at 29th January 2021

- Total cases: 203,933
- Total active case: 45,478
- Total death: 733
Ensuring continuity of good-quality and holistic labour market data
Range of Impacts to Statistical Operations

In normal situation...

- LFS uses the Face-to-face interview method. During the survey period, trained interviewers visit households in selected living quarters (LQs).
  
- 25% repeated panels were interviewed via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI).
  
- Field work operation of LFS started from week 8 – week 14, on 12th of every month all of the states are required to submit the collected data.
  
- National Enterprises-Wide Statistical System allowed access only in secure office environment.

During COVID-19 situation...

- Strict restrictions on movement have led to a suspension of all face-to-face interviewing activities.
  
- Moving to telephone interview and web-based data capture and processing
  
- The response rate was sufficient but not as high as before crisis.
  
- Survey response during pre COVID-19 was consistently high.
  
- Continuous efforts in updating the phone numbers in household sampling frame help to obtain responses.

Pre Crisis

Survey response during pre COVID-19 was consistently high

During Crisis

The response rate was sufficient but not as high as before crisis

Continuous efforts in updating the phone numbers in household sampling frame help to obtain responses
In Response to Urgent Requests for New Information...

Labour Force Survey Questionnaire

To collect relevant information on **social and demographic characteristics** of the survey population and **economic characteristics of the labour force**.

Further information are required to evaluate the impact of pandemic and containment measures.

**Modifications involved:**
1. Identification of reasons for temporary lay-off due to movement restrictions working during the reference week
2. Status of salaries, wages and benefits received
3. Last-job information within MCO period including industry and status of employment

These information is important to inform on the impact of COVID-19 and the containment measures towards the labour force and potential labour force.
Statistics Dissemination During Crisis

1. Teaser to alert users on latest statistics release date

2. Infographic with additional time series chart

3. Detail report to explain on the labour force situation

4. More elaboration in media statement

5. Stats Alert

6. Video that tell story on labour force

7. Live Streaming on DOSM Facebook

8. Information paper to Economic Action Council to highlight on specific issue related to labour market
In Meeting Requirement of Stakeholder

DOSM escalates enhancement and innovates dissemination of labour market information...

**Transformation of Monthly Labour Force Report**

1. Expedite dissemination of monthly report from 6 weeks to 5 weeks
2. Refine the report from 8 pages to 30 pages which consist of more comprehensive information regarding the labour supply situation
3. Expansion from 5 indicators to 45 indicators

**New indicator for monitoring labour supply**

**Monthly**
1. Number of employed person by status in employment
2. Number of active and inactive unemployment
3. Duration of unemployment
4. Youth unemployment rate

**Quarterly**
1. Time related underemployment
2. Skill related underemployment

**Quarterly Labour Market Review Report**

Aim to brings official statistics to life through review and features which highlighted the most recent trends in Malaysia’s labour market.

Consists of 3 segments
1. Labour Supply
2. Labour Demand
3. Labour Productivity

Supplemented by 66 indicators in 16 tables

Featured box article

**Encourage article writing**

4 box article highlighting the most recent labour market issues through statistics:
1. Impact of COVID-19 to the Malaysia’s Labour Market
2. Supplementary Measures of Labour Underutilisation
3. The Review of Hours Worked in Malaysia
4. Assessment of Underemployment Situation in Malaysia

Published research paper in IAOS journal title An experimental measure of Malaysia’s gig workers using labour force survey
COVID-19 as Eye-opener for Labour Market Data Enhancement

01 The need to leverage on administrative record and big data sources as potential ways to complement survey data.

02 Strengthening of sampling frame and refinement of methodology for sampling designs and survey instruments to measure specific interest.

03 Continuous modification of information collected in line with fast changing labour market scenario.

04 System development should be made more dynamics and flexible to ensure fast data capture, processing, analysis and dissemination.

05 Importance of granular data, thus data can be disaggregated to meet the needs of different situations.
Conclusion

1. Role of NSO has been extended beyond data collection, processing and dissemination through involvement in policy discussion.
   - NSO as a focal point to support labour market policy and remained relevant during unprecedented events.

2. Leveraging on multiple data sources for comprehensive labour market information.
   - Data integration between census and survey data as well as administrative records in all related agencies in one single platform.

3. To embark on research development and refinement of statistical methodology as well as enhance analytics capacity.
   - Strengthen collaboration with academicians, industry players, other NSO and international organizations.
   - Broaden statistical analysis beyond data profiling to include modeling and forecasting.
THANK YOU

BANCI MALAYSIA